

As a Cochlear Implant user, I am asking that the Commission withdraw the exemption of public mobile service from the Hearing Compatibility Act of 1988.

Even though I am hearing impaired, I continue to take an active role in my community and try to contribute in any way that I can.

The lack of compatibility poses a real safety issue for me. I have experienced periodic loss of regular telephone service in my home. The use of a mobile phone is the only way that I can report these outages. At this time, I must rely on others to relay this information and place any other emergency calls. Further, my activities often requires me to be on the road at different times of the day or night. A mobile phone that is compatible with my implant is the best insurance that I can summon assistance should it be necessary. A compatible mobile phone system will add considerably to my independence.

In addition, communications technology continues to move more and more to digital systems. Those of us who rely on assistive listening devices are in danger of being left behind as this trend accelerates.